E-LENDING SUMMIT

EBLIDA CONFERENCE, 18.4.2023

Giuseppe Vitiello
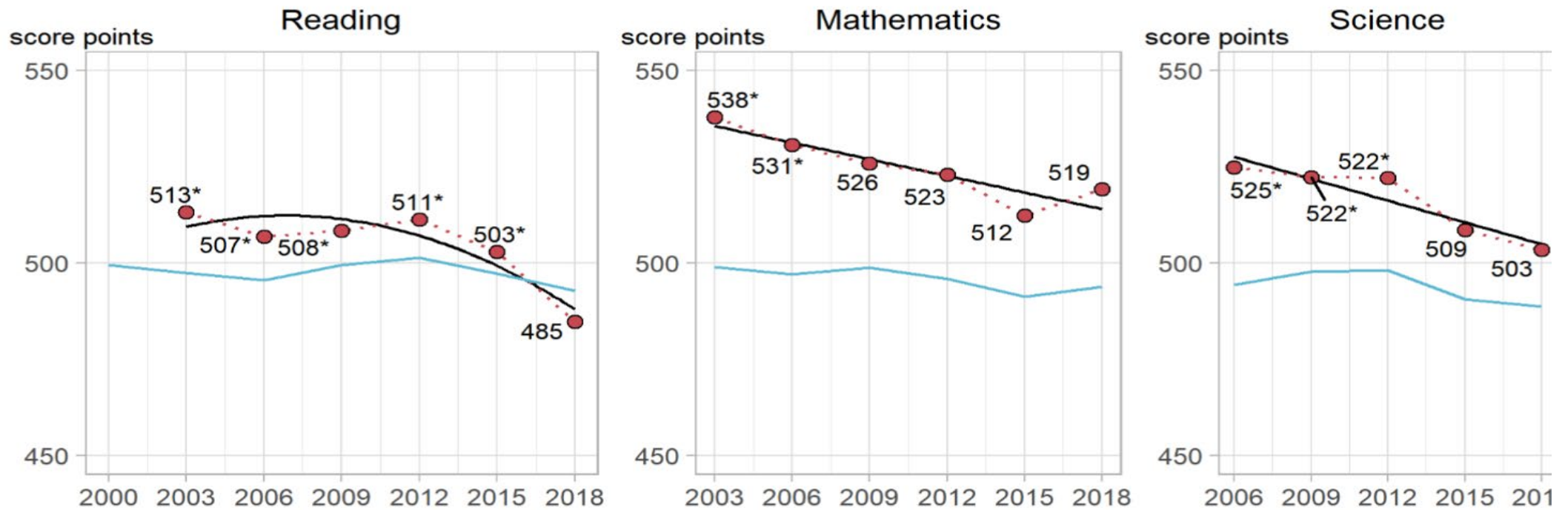
EBLIDA Director

PISA REPORTS

PISA is the OECD's **Programme for International Student Assessment**. PISA measures 15-year-olds' ability to use their reading, mathematics and science knowledge and skills to meet real-life challenges.
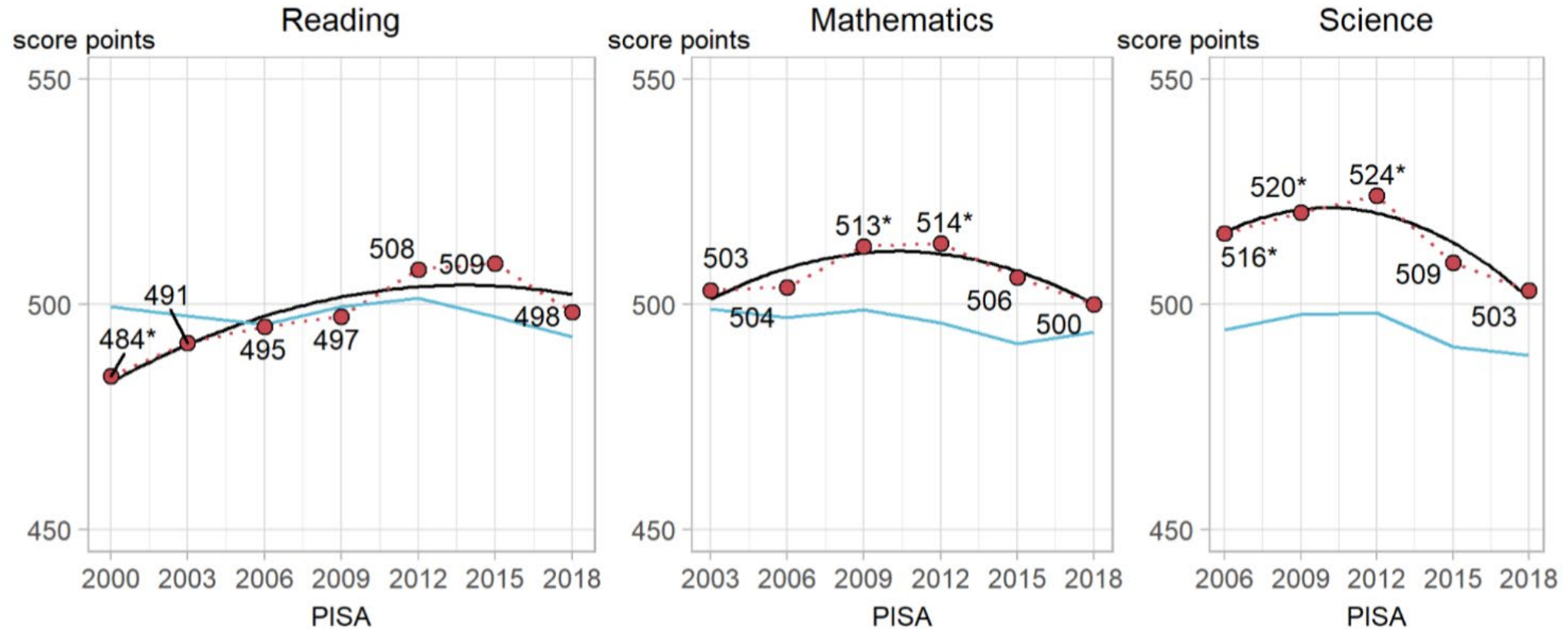
Netherlands

Figure 2. Trends in performance in reading, mathematics and science

Germany

Figure 2. Trends in performance in reading, mathematics and science

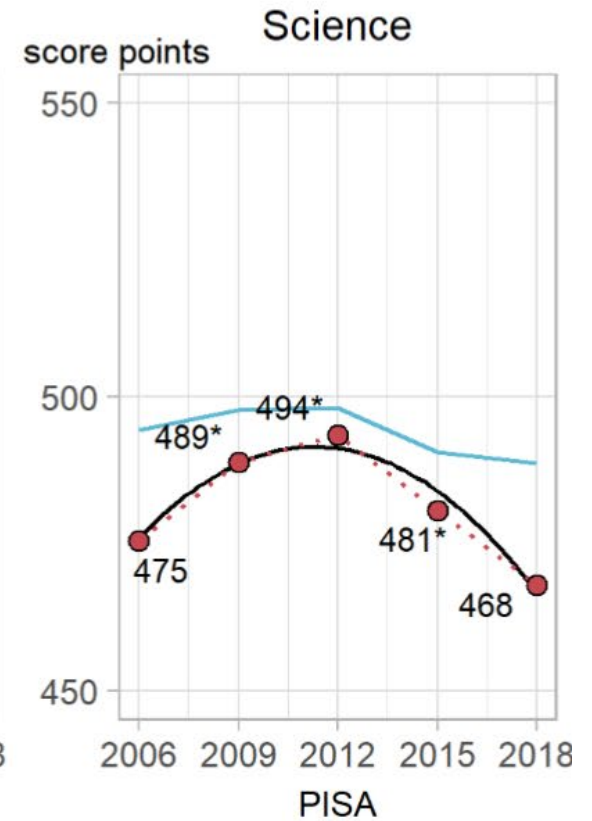# Italy

Figure 2. Trends in performance in reading, mathematics and science
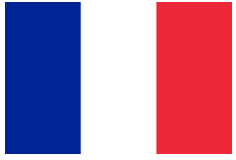
France

Figure 2. Trends in performance in reading, mathematics and science
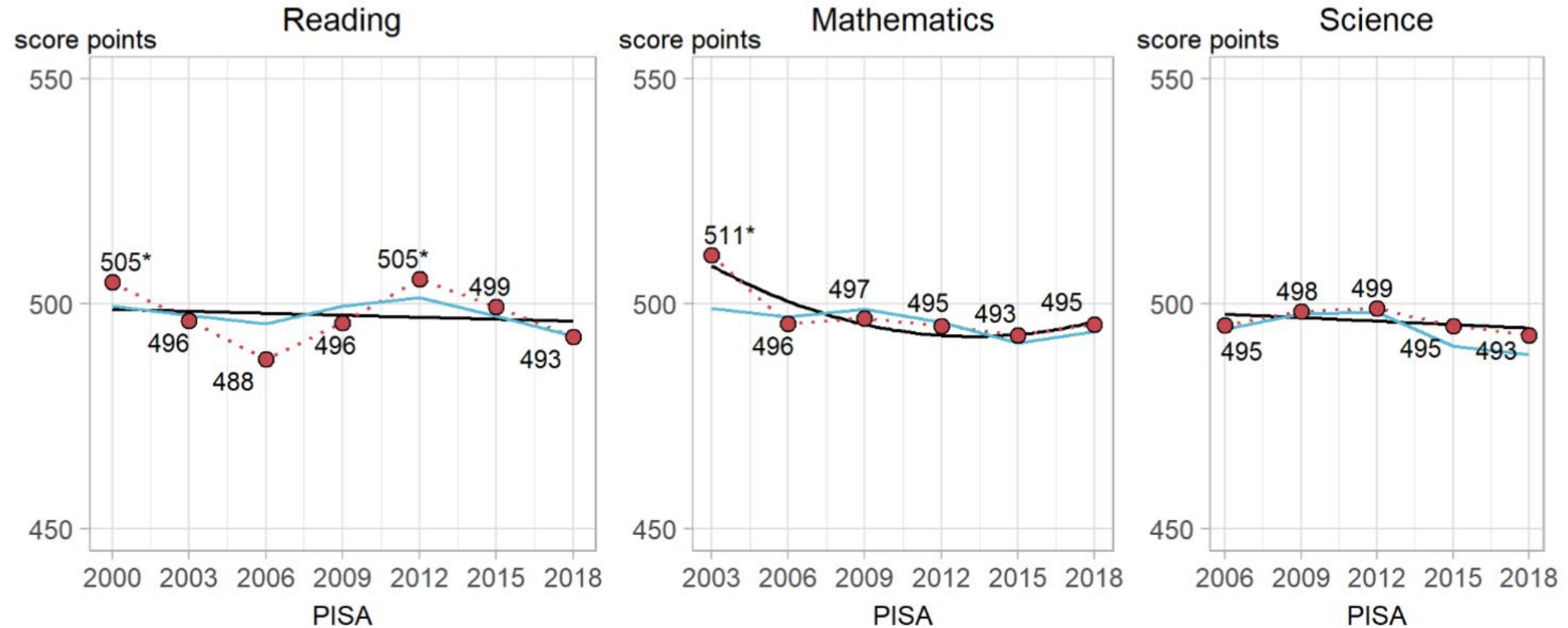
Denmark

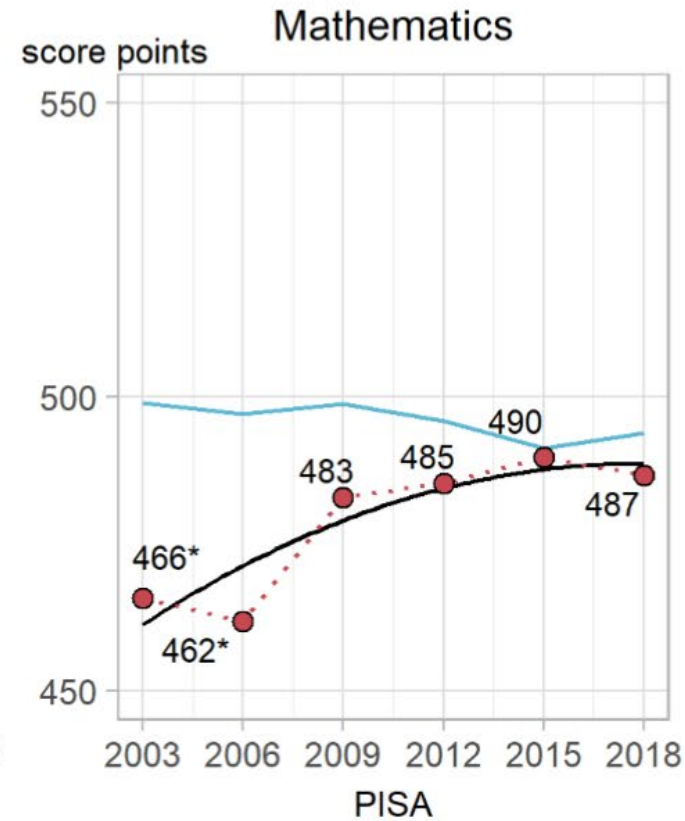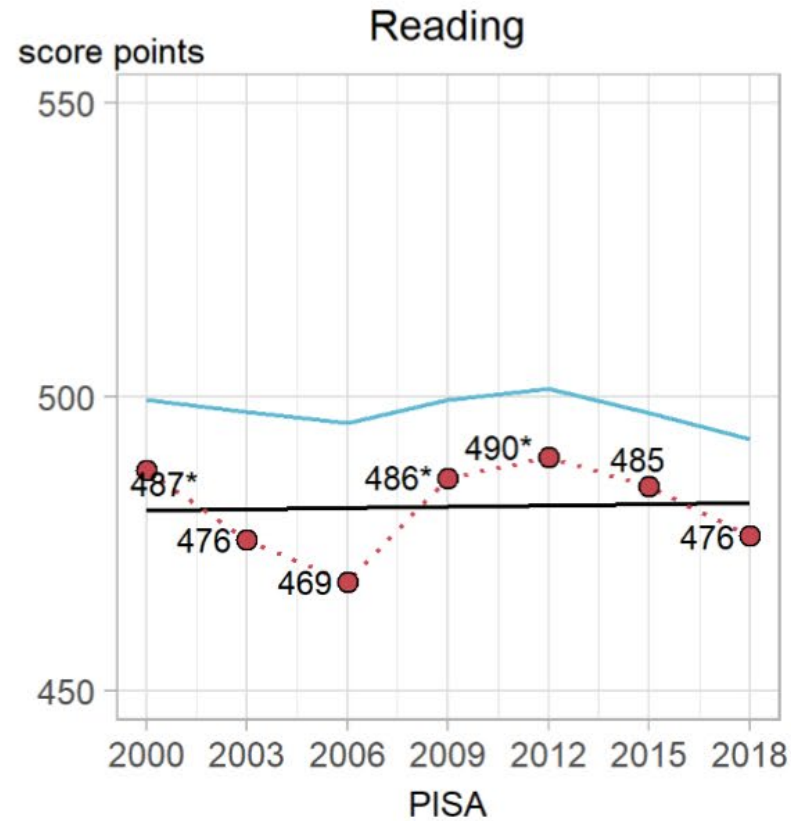Figure 2. Trends in performance in reading, mathematics and science
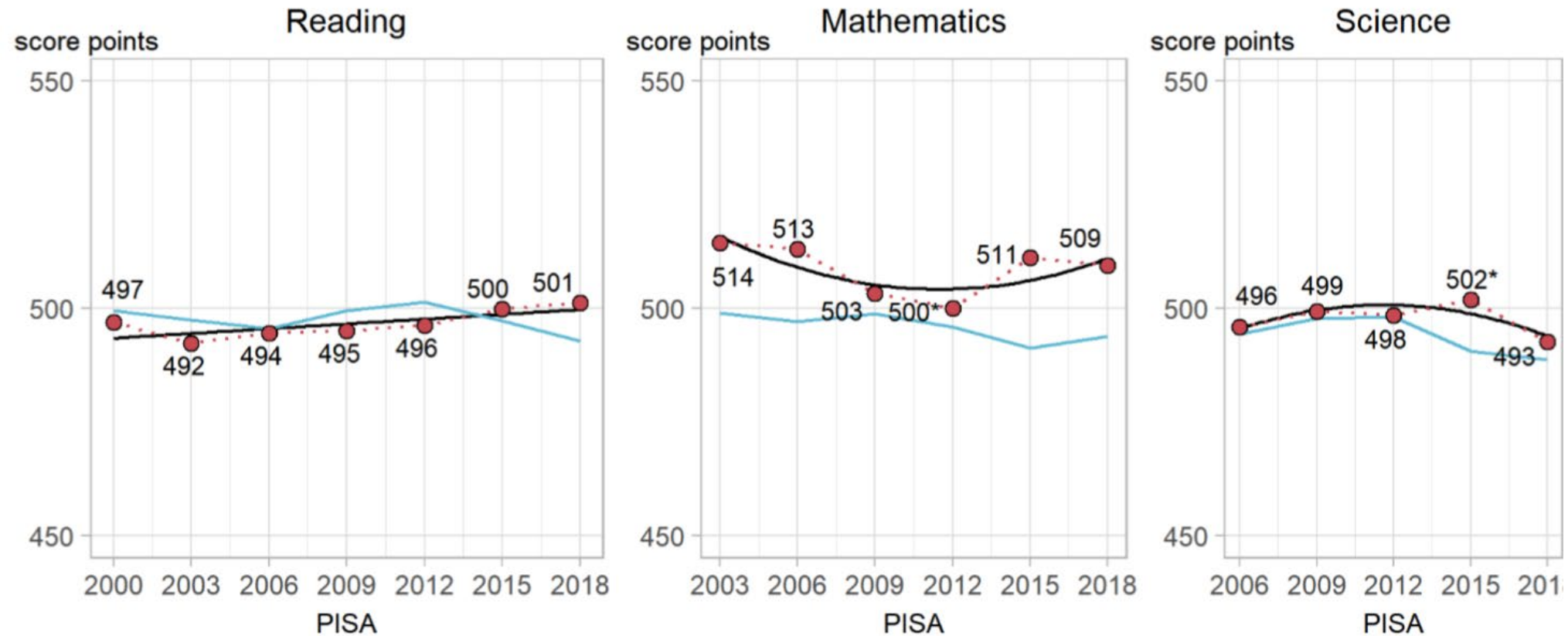
The future of reading

Reading skills are **steady** at the best, and **declining** in many countries.

PISA 2020-2021 not available, but in all likelihood they **plummeted**, as constantly declining library loans demonstrate.
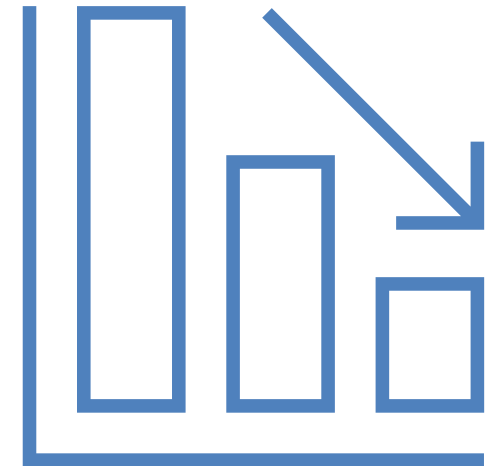
European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations

BOOK LOANS

Sources: EBLIDA Handbook on comparative e-lending policies in Europe (2023); Member communications; DBS

Finland

Book loans (2018-2021)

- 17% in two years

Year	Value
2018	84.530.120
2019	85.942.056
2020	70.366.365
2021	71.730.751

Series1 Series2
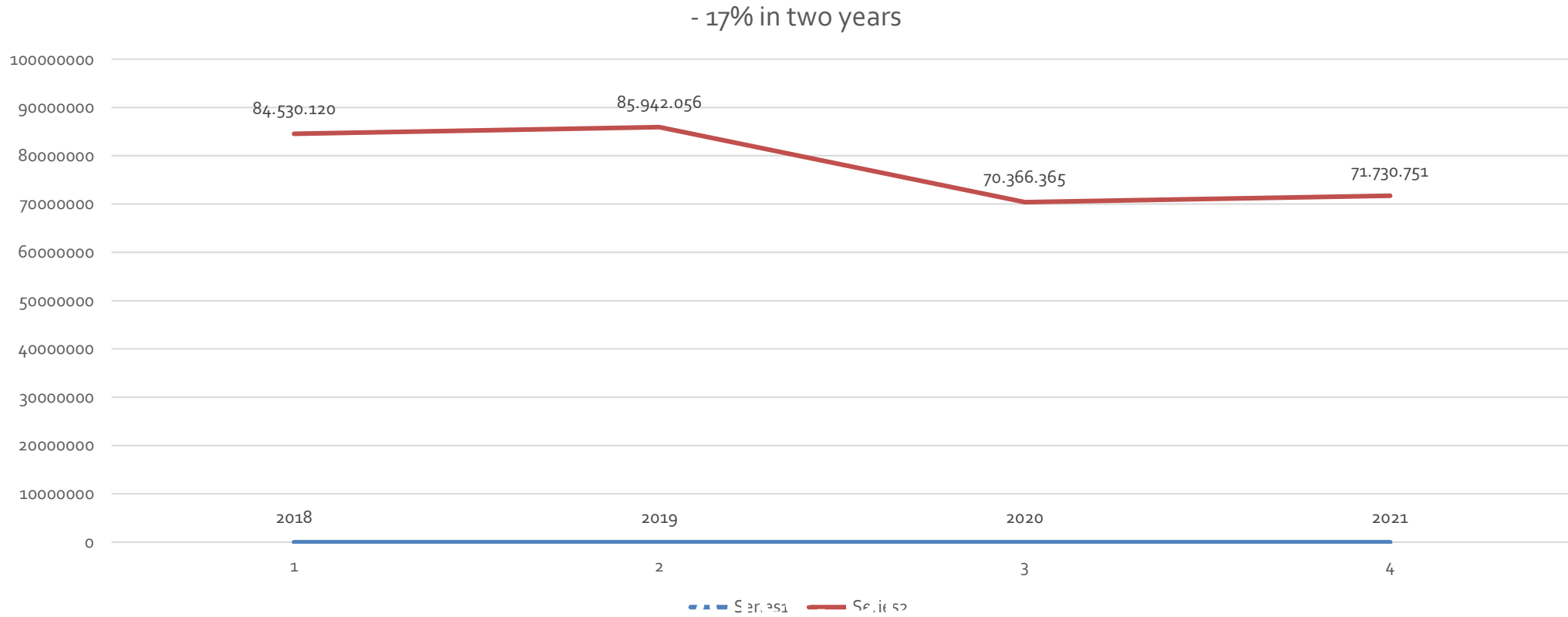
Lithuania
Book loans (2018-2021)

- 34% in two years

17.845.530

17.328.908

12.387.914

10.401.491

11.539.140

20000000

18000000

16000000

14000000

12000000

10000000

8000000

6000000

4000000

2000000

0

2018   2019   2020   2021   2022

1   2   3   4   5

—— Series1   —— Series2   —— Series3
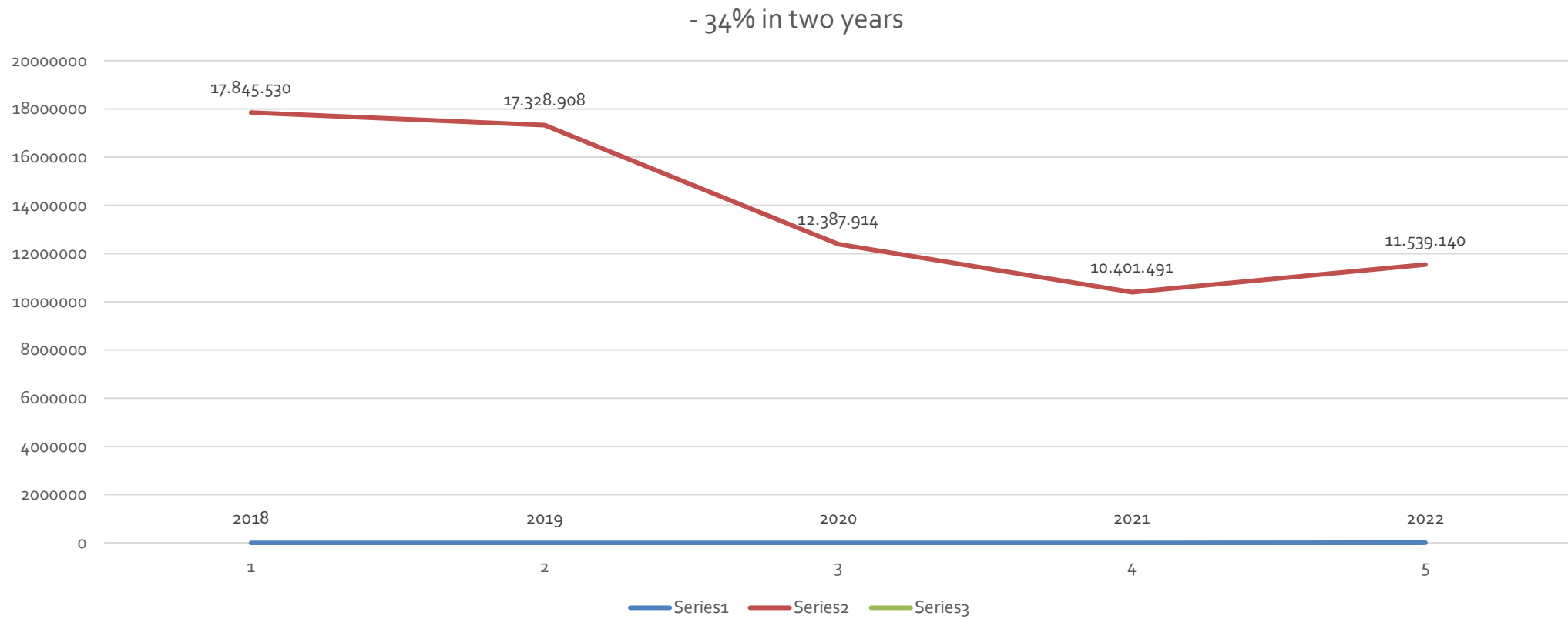
Source: Member communication

EBLIDA

Norway
Book loans (2018-2021)

- 5% in two years

	2018	2019	2020	2021
	16.679.145	17.431.409	14.157.399	16.614.852

Series1 Series2
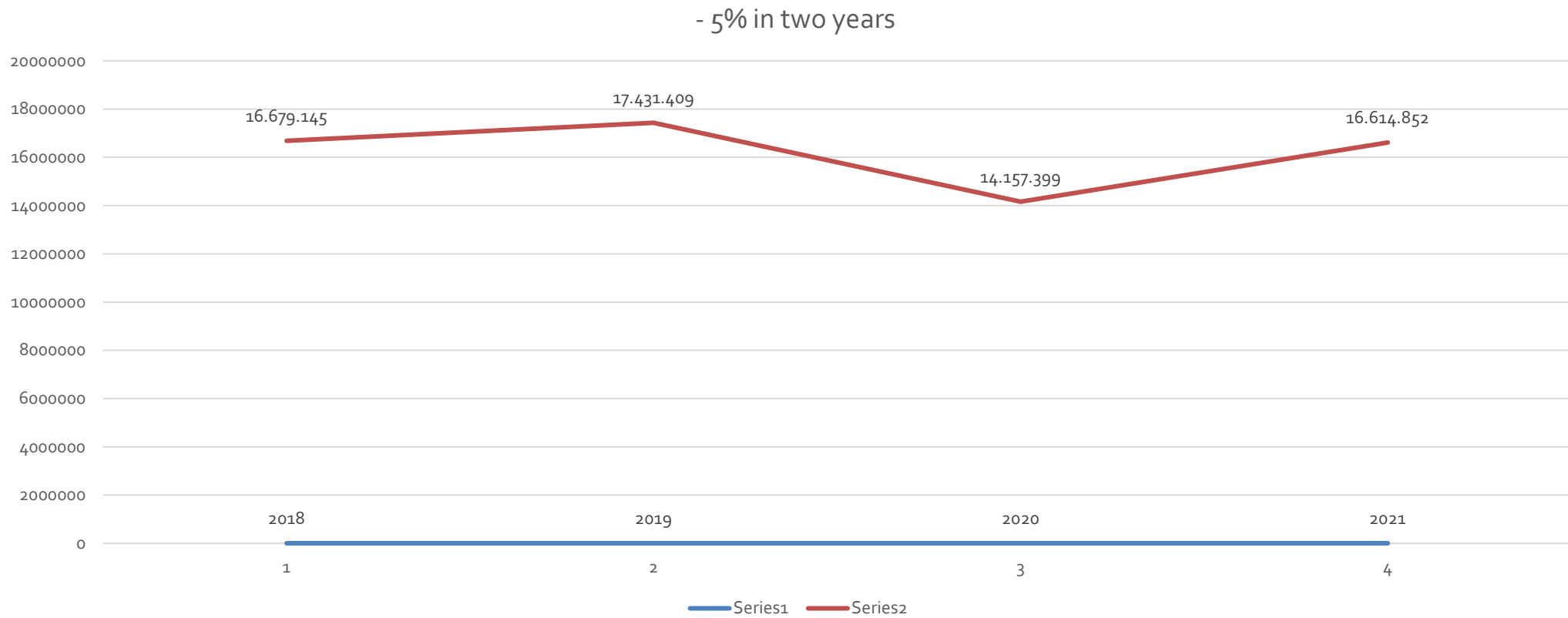
Germany
Book loans / million (2011-2021)
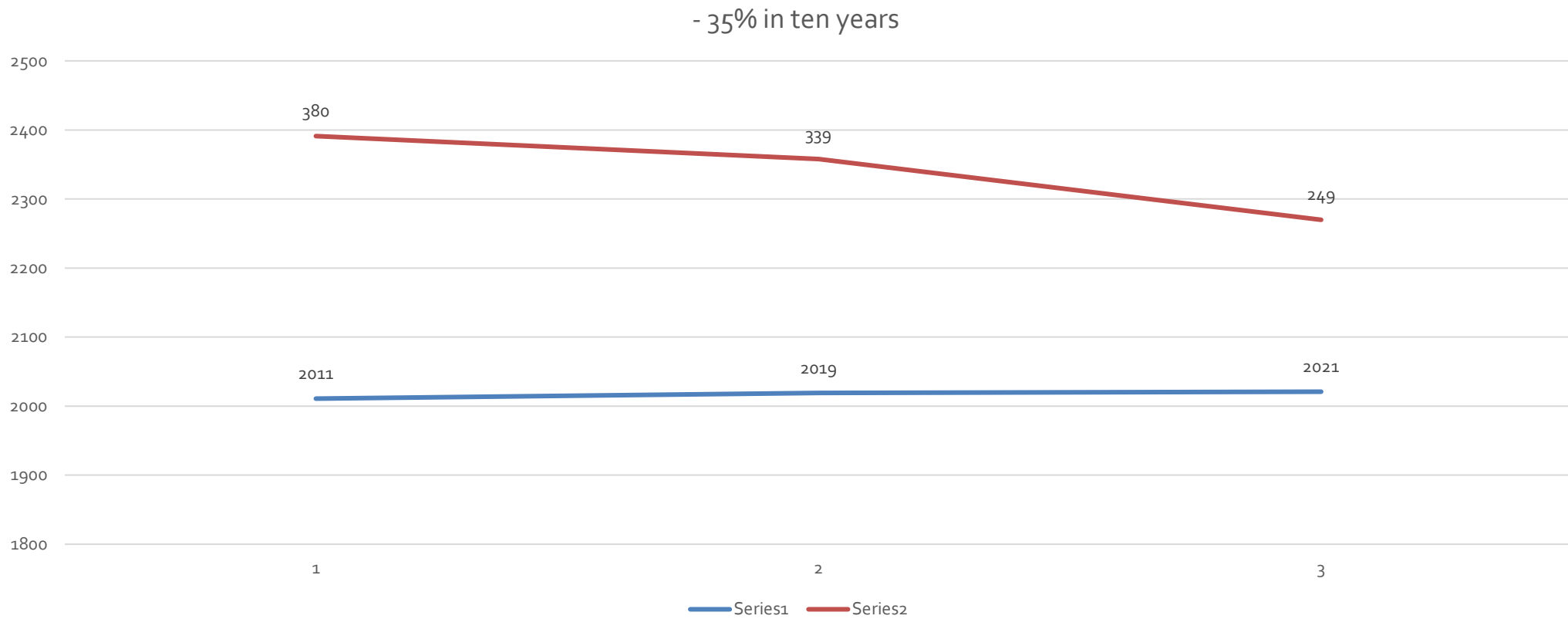
EBLIDA

- 35% in ten years

380

339

249

2500
2400
2300
2200
2100
2000
1900
1800

2011

2019

2021

1

2

3

Series1   Series2

Source: DBS

European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations

E-BOOK LOANS

Sources: EBLIDA Handbook on comparative e-lending policies in Europe (2023)
Member communications

Denmark

E-book and e-audiobook loans (2018-2021)

E-books/E-audiobooks: 76% in 2018; 71% in 2021

- 844.726
- 878.997
- 708.548
- 630.601
- 500.218
- 488.577
- 362.106
- 278.608

| 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Series1 Series2 Series3 Series4
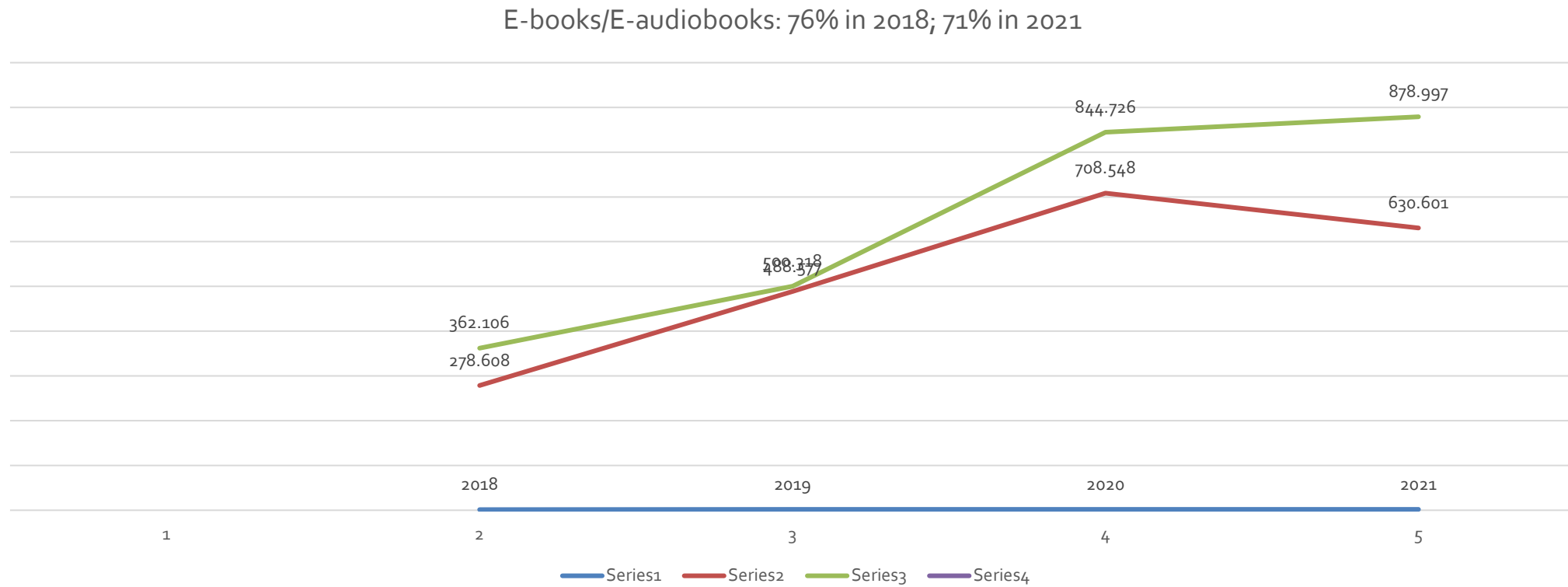
Norway
E-book and e-audiobook loans (2018-2021)

e-Audiobooks/e-books: 27% in 2019; 63% in 2021

1.008.674

960.246

610.960

603.535

637.061

460.499

166.393

75.844

2018

2019

2020

2021

1

2

3

4

Series1 ── Series2 ── Series3
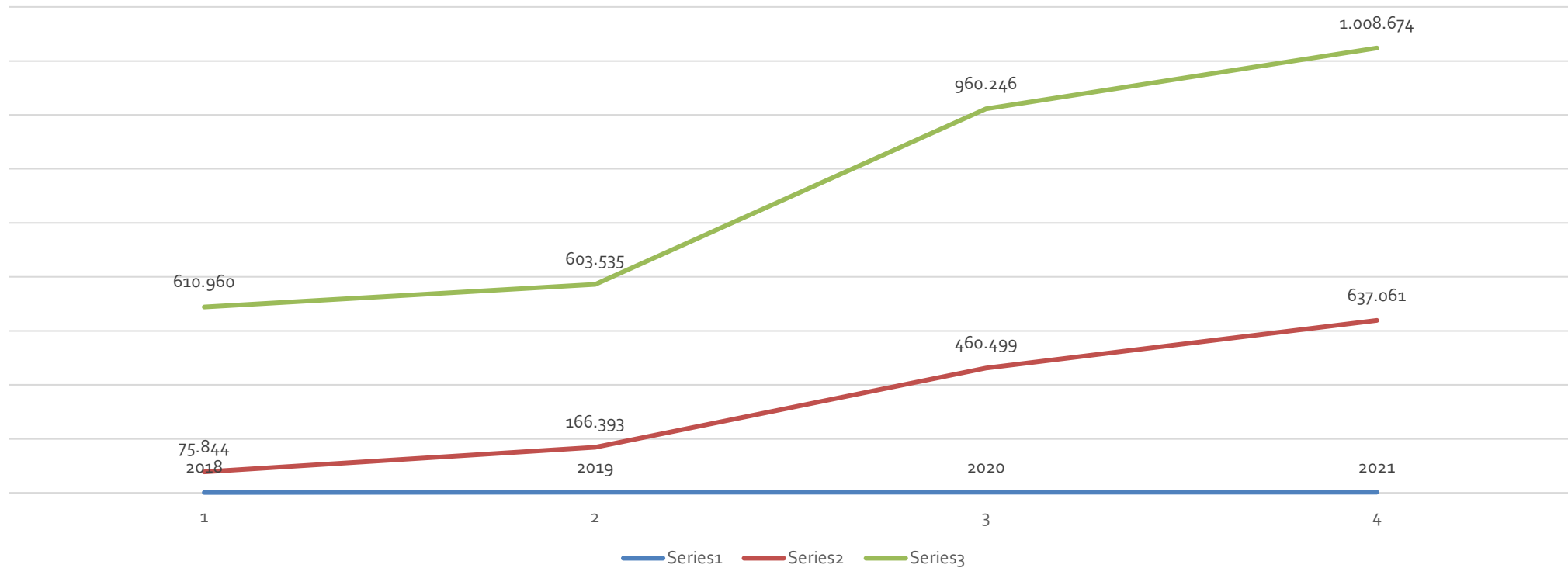
Source: EBLIDA Handbook (2023)

Finland
E-book and e-audiobook loans (2018-2021)

Ebooks/Eaudiobooks: 76% in 2018; 71% in 2021

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Series3	362.106	500.318	844.726	878.997
Series2	278.608	488.577	708.548	630.601

Series1 — Series2 — Series3
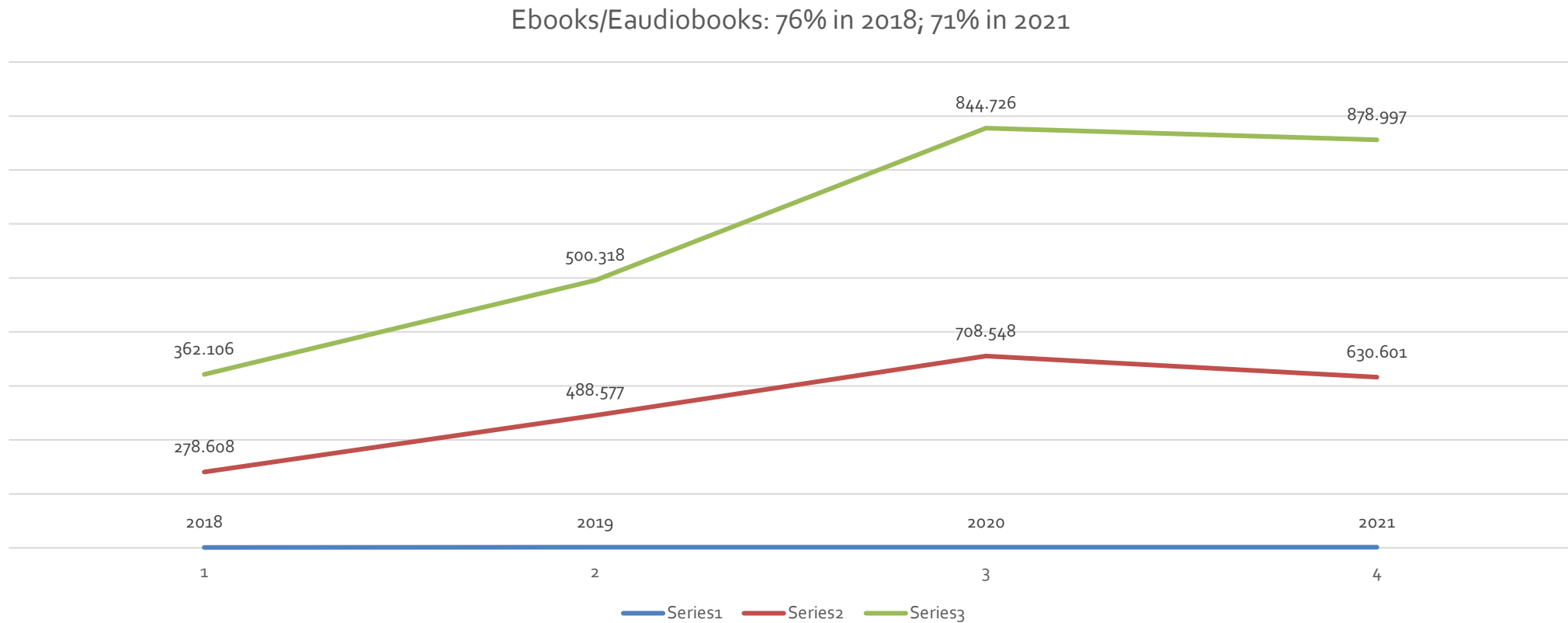
Source: EBLIDA Handbook (2023)

Estonia and Lithuania
E-book and e-audiobook loans (2018-2021)

+294% in Estonia; NA in Lithuania

160000

141.242

140000

120000

100000

80000

60000

47.910

40000

20370

20000

14.425   11454   14110

2018   2019   2020   2021

0

1   2   3   4

Series1   Series2   Series3
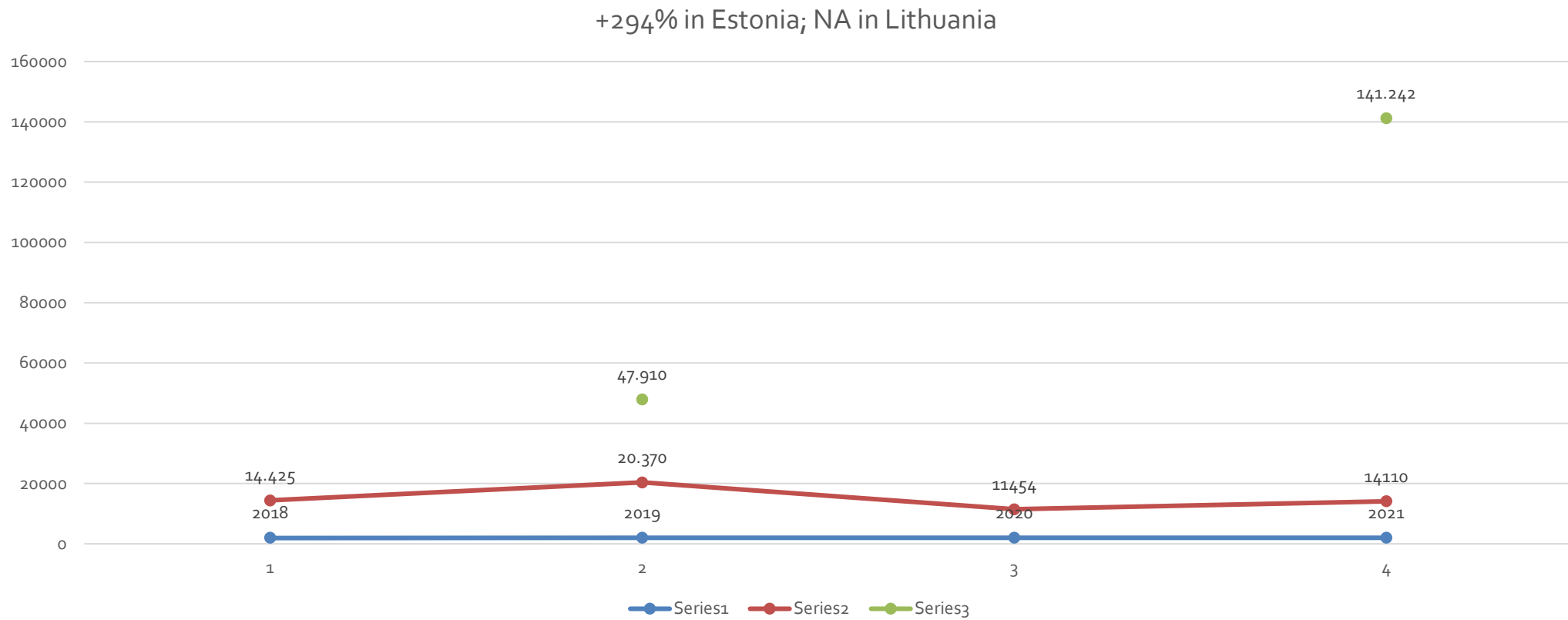
Source: Member communication

The future of reading

General Recommendation :

"Create a permanent infrastructure for monitoring reading developments in European public libraries."

Lending vs E-lending in Europe (ph)

Country	(1) E-lending Transactions	Population	E-lending per inhb	Book loans (2019) (2)	Lending per inhb	Technological literacy (% of population) (3)
Belgium (Flem, 2021)	378 000	6 653 062	0.05	3 726 663	0.5	54
Denmark (2021)	7 422 102	5 828 022	1.2	24,4 Ml	4.2	70
Finland (2021)	1 509 599	5 560 384	0.27	76070,066	13.68	79
France (2020)	1 Ml	65 526 762	0.01	280 Ml	4.2	57
Germany (2020)	30,2 Ml	84 254 408	0.35	274 Ml	3.2	70
Greece (2020)	23 919	10 353 203	0.002	?	?	51
Ireland (2021)	2 184 087	5 123 536	0.42	10,753,548	2.1	70
Italy (2021)	1 474 013	60 461 826	0.02	45,4 Ml	0.7	42
Latvia (2021)	39 346	1 866 934	0.02	11 Ml	5.8	43
Netherlands (2021)	7,5 Ml	17 754 400	0.42	63,2 Ml	3.5	79
Norway (2021)	1 645 735	5 495 680	0.29	12,2 Ml	2.2	83
Romania (2021)	NA	19 012 351	NA	34,2 Ml	1.7	31
Spain (2020)	3 746 853	46 786 580	0.08	51 Ml	1.1	57
Canada (2017) (4)	9,8 Ml	38 353 949	0.2	523 Ml	13.6	84 (5)
US (2017) (4)	218,3 Ml	331 449 281	0.65	2 053 Ml	6.1	84 (6)

Source: EBLIDA Handbook (2023)
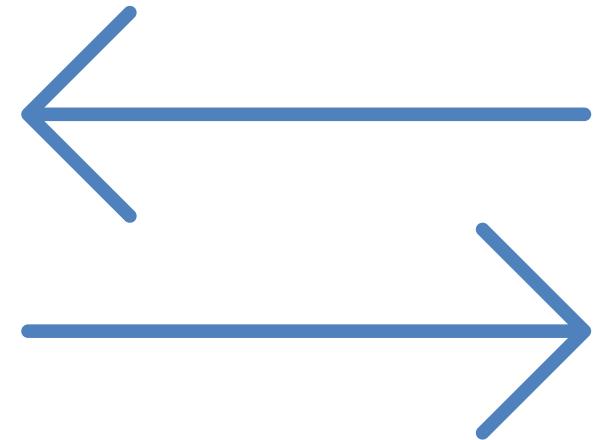
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Source: EBLIDA Handbook (2023)

The future of reading

Lending and e-lending in libraries are formidable instruments for promoting books and e-books (818% growth in e-book sales and 201% growth in print sales).

The market for e-loan transactions in libraries is now dramatically low (from 10 to 100 times lower than the number of book loans; in France, 400 times less).

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Source: EBLIDA Handbook (2023)

The future of reading

Digital literates - "those people who are able to carry out online transactions, pay a bill or use the digital services offered by the public administration" and read e-books (Eurostat)

Digital literates are **less than half** the European population.

There is a desperate **need for e-lending** in Europe.
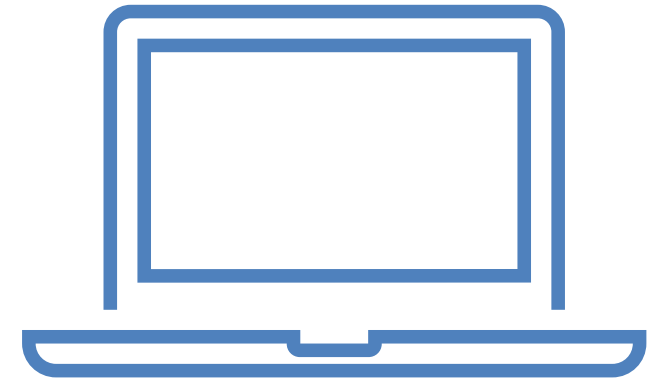
A new alliance between Publishers and Libraries

Hovering between a **Totem** (copyright) and a **taboo** (shared Knowledge).

"Foster the acquisition by libraries of licenses for digital books as soon as they are published."

Let's **meet together** on library platforms.

Recommendations to European Institutions

1. **Increase the volume of e-lending** transactions in Europe;

2. **Reduce regional disparities** in e-lending

3. Projects aiming to create a **digital ecosystem** for e-books (libraries collaborate with publishers);

4. **European award** for e-lending schemes (public access to information is maximised and creators / honest brokers are fairly remunerated).

Recommendations to National Authorities

1. E-lending in public libraries **guaranteed by public legislation and resources**;

2. Practices in libraries related to **analogue formats also valid in the digital environment**;

3. **Promote digital literacy** in libraries against misinformation and disinformation.

4. **Stimulate (e-)lending schemes** which help authors depart from short publishing life-cycles and enjoy long tail mechanisms supporting the longevity of their works;

5. **Fund and stimulate creativity rooms** facilitating meetings between authors and their e-users and other forms of interaction.
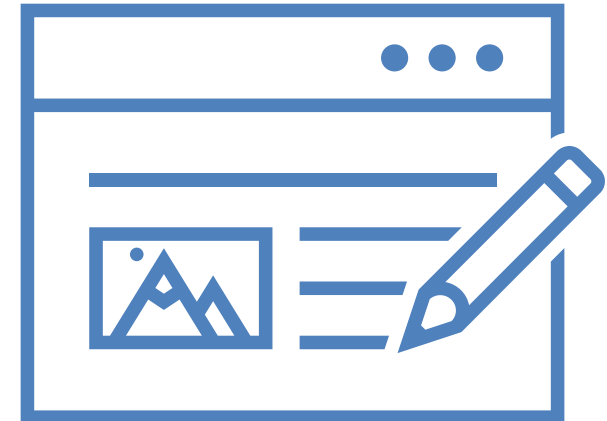
Recommendations to Authors

1. Request that **royalties are collected** from e-lending transactions;

2. Require **full transparency** in all steps of the e-lending process;

3. Request **libraries to diffuse their works** in social media and create opportunities for "meet the author" webinars and other forms of dissemination;

4. Be aware that **(e-)lending schemes create opportunities** for longer publishing life-cycles and long tail mechanisms which support the longevity of their works;

5. **Ally with libraries** in creating innovative rooms - contacts with e-readers and new life is given to literature through creative forms of diffusion of their works.
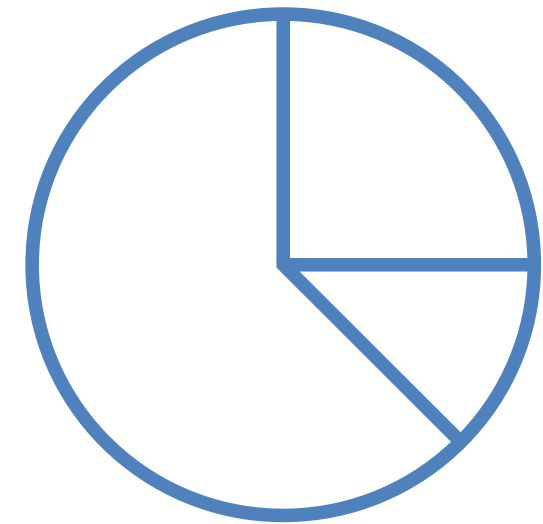
Recommendations to Publishers

1. **Ally with libraries** to find best ways of promoting e-books through social media and platforms;

2. **Remove barriers** now creating frictions to wider dissemination of their works;

3. In collaboration with libraries, find creative ways of **disseminating "closed" works** and allow for the organisation of cumulative creativity.
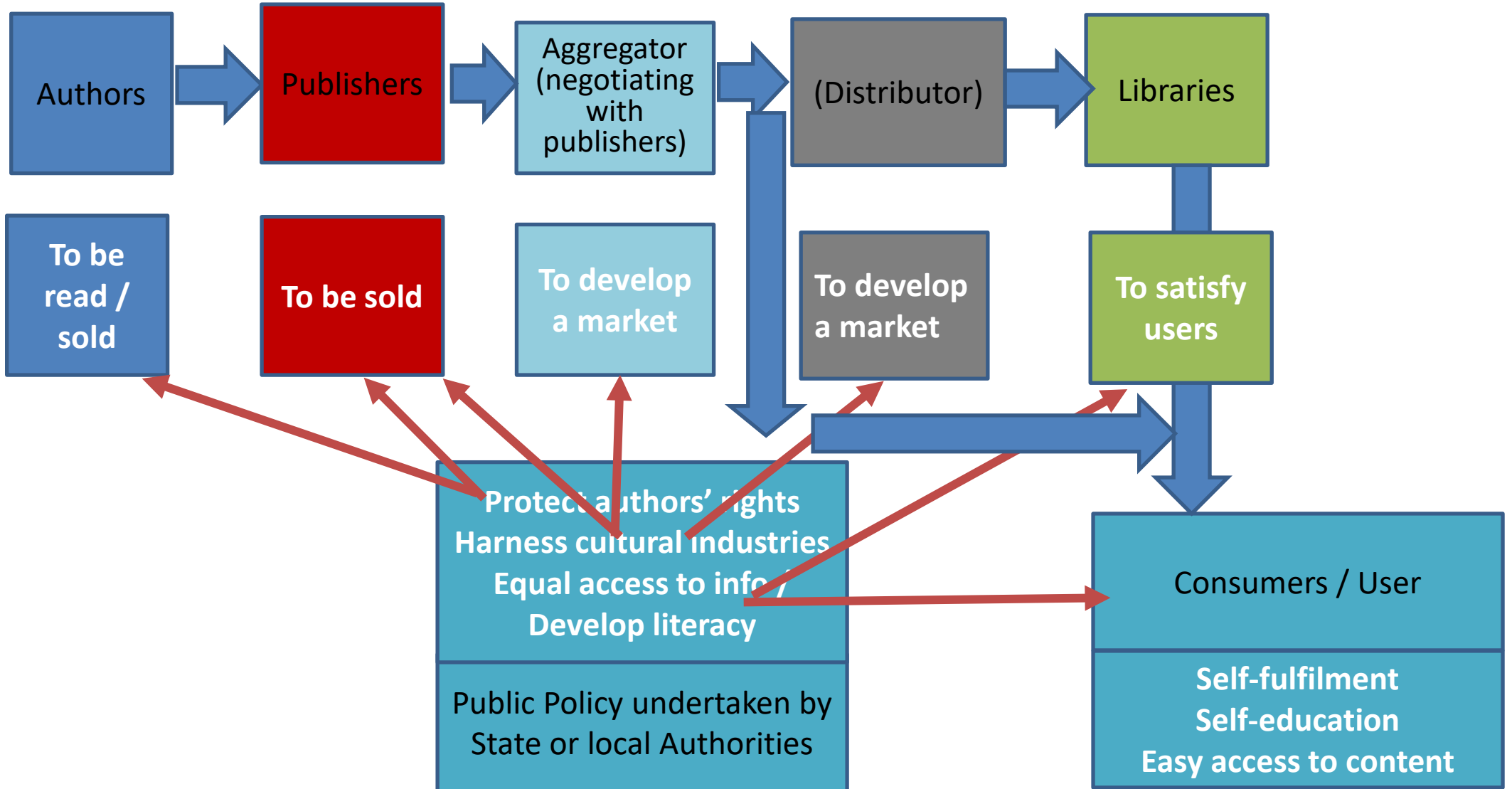
Recommendations to Aggregators

1. Set up **transparent e-lending schemes**, with business models and services clearly identifiable;

2. Together with public libraries, **study and analyse the sets of metadata** that should be transferred to libraries in order to facilitate their interaction with local communities;

3. Provide **regular and complete statistics** of the transactions taking place within their platforms with direct input into local, national and European statistical reports.
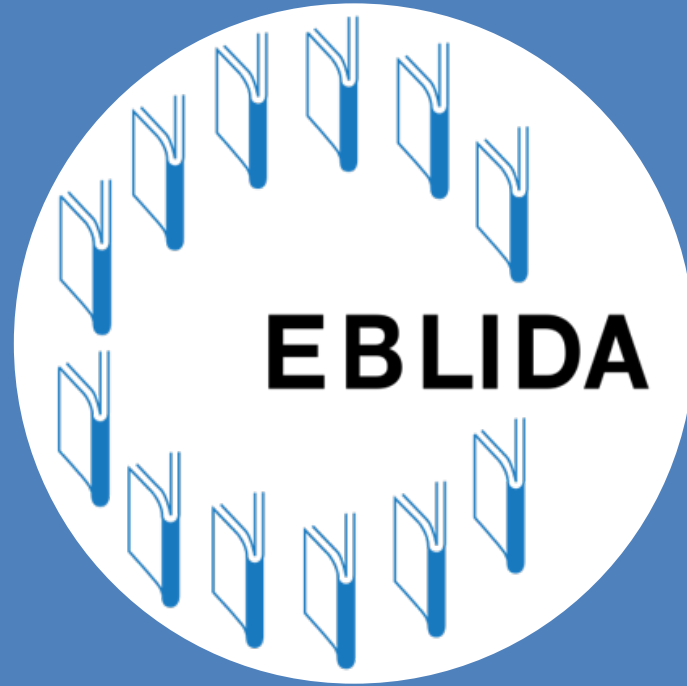
Libraries striving towards an equitable society

EBLIDA

Authors → Publishers → Aggregator (negotiating with publishers) → (Distributor) → Libraries

E-LENDING SUMMIT

Thank you for attention

EBLIDA Conference, 18.4.2023